

rectangular prisms are not provided with a dichroic film. Such a construction makes it possible to prevent return light, which returns from the light emitting surface side of the dichroic prism and the dichroic prism, from emitting again from the light emitting surface.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please correct Figs. 6(B), 11(C), and 12 as set forth in the attached Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-8 as follows:

1. (Amended) A dichroic prism [composed of] comprising:
four rectangular prisms [with their], each rectangular prism having rectangular surfaces bonded [together] to rectangular surfaces of adjacent rectangular prisms, [wherein] a first surface part [of a rectangular surface] of at least one said of four rectangular prisms [protrudes] protruding from the rectangular surfaces of other ones of said rectangular prisms, and
[wherein] a dichroic film [is] formed on a second surface part [of the rectangular surface] of said [protruding] at least one rectangular prism [other than said protruding part], said second surface part not protruding from said rectangular surfaces of said other ones of said rectangular prisms.
2. (Amended) A dichroic prism [composed of] comprising:
four rectangular prisms [with their], each rectangular prism having rectangular surfaces bonded [together] to rectangular surfaces of adjacent rectangular prisms, [wherein] a first surface part [of a rectangular surface] of a first rectangular prism pair composed of two adjoining rectangular prisms of said four rectangular prisms [protrudes] protruding from a rectangular surface of a second rectangular prism pair in a longitudinal direction, and

8. (Amended) A projection display apparatus, comprising:

an illumination optical system for emitting illumination light;

colored light separation means for separating the illumination light into lights of three colors;

three light modulation means for modulating the three colored lights based on a given image signal;

a dichroic prism [claimed in any of claims 1 to 6] composed of four rectangular prisms, each rectangular prism having rectangular surfaces bonded to rectangular surfaces of adjacent rectangular prisms, a first surface part of at least one of said four rectangular prisms protruding from the rectangular surfaces of other ones of said rectangular prisms, and a dichroic film formed on a second surface part of said at least one rectangular prism, said second surface part not protruding from said rectangular surfaces of said other ones of said rectangular prisms; and

a projection optical system for projecting the lights synthesized by said dichroic prism.

Please add new claims 9-20 as follows:

--9. A prism unit, comprising:

a dichroic prism composed of four rectangular prisms, each rectangular prism having rectangular surfaces bonded to rectangular surfaces of adjacent rectangular prisms, a first surface part of a first rectangular prism pair composed of two adjoining rectangular prisms of said four rectangular prisms protruding from a rectangular surface of a second rectangular prism pair in a longitudinal direction, and a dichroic film formed on a second surface part of said first rectangular prism pair, said second surface part not protruding from said rectangular surfaces of said other ones of said rectangular prisms; and

[wherein] a dichroic film [is] formed on a second surface part [of the rectangular surface] of said first rectangular prism pair [other than said protruding part], said second surface part not protruding from said rectangular surfaces of said other ones of said rectangular prisms.

67. (Amended) [A] The dichroic prism according to claim ⁵2, [wherein] said two adjoining rectangular prisms in said first rectangular prism pair [are] being in a state shifted from each other in the longitudinal direction so that they form a step.

21. (Amended) [A] The dichroic prism according to [any of claims 1 to ⁶8, wherein] claim 1, [the rectangular surface of] said [protruding] first surface part [is] being provided with a light diffusing layer for diffusing light.

38. (Amended) [A] The dichroic prism according to claim ²4, [wherein] said light diffusing layer [is] being an adhesive layer.

46. (Amended) [A] The dichroic prism according to claim [5, wherein] ²1, said light diffusing layer [is] being a ground glass layer.

7. (Amended) A prism unit, comprising:

a dichroic prism [claimed in any of claims 1 to 6] composed of four rectangular prisms, each rectangular prism having rectangular surfaces bonded to rectangular surfaces of adjacent rectangular prisms, a first surface part of at least one of said four rectangular prisms protruding from the rectangular surfaces of other ones of said rectangular prisms, and a dichroic film formed on a second surface part of said at least one rectangular prism, said second surface part not protruding from said rectangular surfaces of said other ones of said rectangular prisms; and

a prism stand for mounting said dichroic prism thereon, [wherein] said prism stand [has] having a step that matches a step of said dichroic prism.

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a prism stand for mounting said dichroic prism thereon, said prism stand having a step that matches a step of said dichroic prism.--

--10. A projection display apparatus, comprising:

an illumination optical system for emitting illumination light;

colored light separation means for separating the illumination light into lights of three colors;

three light modulation means for modulating the three colored lights based on a given image signal;

a dichroic prism composed of four rectangular prisms, each rectangular prism having rectangular surfaces bonded to rectangular surfaces of adjacent rectangular prisms, a first surface part of a first rectangular prism pair composed of two adjoining rectangular prisms of said four rectangular prisms protruding from a rectangular surface of a second rectangular prism pair in a longitudinal direction, and a dichroic film formed on a second surface part of said first rectangular prism pair, said second surface part not protruding from said rectangular surfaces of said other ones of said rectangular prisms; and

a projection optical system for projecting the lights synthesized by said dichroic prism.--

--11. The prism unit according to claim 7, said first surface part being provided with a light diffusing layer for diffusing light.--

--12. The prism unit according to claim 11, said light diffusing layer being an adhesive layer.--

--13. The prism unit according to claim 11, said light diffusing layer being a ground glass layer.--

--14. The projection display apparatus according to claim 8, said first surface part being provided with a light diffusing layer for diffusing light.--

--15. The projection display apparatus according to claim 14, said light diffusing layer being an adhesive layer.--

--16. The projection display apparatus according to claim 14, said light diffusing layer being a ground glass layer.--

--17. The prism unit according to claim 15, said two adjoining rectangular prisms in said first rectangular prism pair being fixed in a state shifted from each other in the longitudinal direction so that they form the step of said dichroic prism.--

--18. The projection display apparatus according to claim 10, said two adjoining rectangular prisms in said first rectangular prism pair being fixed in a state shifted from each other in the longitudinal direction so that they form a step.--

--19. A projection display method, comprising:
 emitting illumination light;
 separating the illumination light into lights of three colors;
 modulating the three colored lights based on a given image signal;
 synthesizing the lights using a dichroic prism composed of four rectangular prisms, each rectangular prism having rectangular surfaces bonded to rectangular surfaces of adjacent rectangular prisms, a first surface part of at least one of said four rectangular prisms protruding from the rectangular surfaces of other ones of said rectangular prisms, and a dichroic film formed on a second surface part of said at least one rectangular prism, said second surface part not protruding from said rectangular surfaces of said other ones of said rectangular prisms; and

projecting the lights synthesized by said dichroic prism.--

--20. A projection display method, comprising:
 emitting illumination light;

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